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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 KINSHASA 001311

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SUBJECT: RCD TO FIRE EIGHT DISSIDENT PARLIAMENTARIANS

Classified By: Poloff Edward Bestic for Reasons 1.5 B and D

11. (C) SUMMARY: Eight RCD parliamentarians, citing numerous government failings including tolerance of ethnic hatred, declared they will not participate in parliament. A senior RCD official in Goma sympathized, saying "most people" in the Kivus agree with their views. A top RCD official in Kinshasa, however, said that after their declaration the RCD leadership decided to replace all eight in parliament, and will probably exclude them from the party. RCD leaders appear to think few will join this political "mutiny." END SUMMARY.

"We Quit...for Now"

12. (U) Eight Rassemblement Congolais pour la Democratie (RCD) members of parliament, Rwandophones all, announced from Goma on July 13 that they are suspending their participation in the transitional government. (Note: The RCD has 94 seats in the National Assembly. End Note.) The most prominent of these is Bizima Karaha, foreign minister under Laurent Kabila and later head of the RCD's internal-security service. The group announced its decision in a 14-page communique, which warns that the peace process and transitional government are in danger of collapsing, and charges that:

--top GDRC officials are deliberately fostering ethnic hatred toward Tutsis, in the Kivus and in Kinshasa; other transitional government figures including President Joseph Kabila tolerate this

--in May-June 2004, South Kivu military region commander Gen. Mbuza Mabe carried out selective assassinations of Tutsis in Bukavu; elsewhere, Tutsi military personnel are being singled out, detained, and in many instances killed because of their ethnicity

--"parallel structures" answering to Kabila's personal military staff are actively supporting the ex-FAR/Interahamwe in the Kivus; at least 60 percent of the government troops being deployed to eastern Congo are ex-FAR/Interahamwe

The authors go on to make a number of demands, including withdrawal of the 10,000-strong "expeditionary corps" of government troops sent to the east; a "pause" in the transition, to take stock and adopt new policies; appointment of an apolitical, technocratic administration to run the country until elections can be held; physical elimination of the ex-FAR/Interahamwe; and changing the revenue-sharing formula between Kinshasa and the provinces from 90/10 to 60/40.

RCD South Kivu Official Expresses Sympathy

13. (C) South Kivu vice-governor Thomas Nziratimana told poloff July 14 that if RCD leaders in Kinshasa "mishandle" the situation, they risk splitting the RCD as a party. (Note: He is a Tutsi, reportedly a cousin of RCD president Azarias Ruberwa, and the former RCD representative in Pretoria. He is currently in Goma, staying at Karaha's house. End Note.) "We on the ground" agree with most of the group's complaints, he said. Many are greatly disappointed with the process, and "the hatred in Kinshasa is deep." People will not hesitate to split with the RCD "if need be," he added. Nziratimana said that one of the grievances listed in the communique dealt with his own (biological) younger brother. The brother, Captain Didier Busohoka, was based in a remote area, and "when there were problems," left with three bodyguards for the town of Salamabila. Government troops arrested him on charges of attempting to seize the airfield there, and brought him to Kindu, where he is currently being detained under difficult conditions. Nziratimana said he had personally spoken with the overall Ground Forces Commander, Gen. Sylvain Mbuki, but was unable to secure his brother's release or guarantee better treatment. (Comment: Mbuki was the RCD's top military officer when the transitional government started up, but Nziratimana and other RCD officials in recent months have privately accused Mbuki of selling out to Kabila. End Comment.)

Senior RCD Official in Kinshasa: "They're Out!"

14. (C) Senate 1st Vice President Emile Ilunga told poloff that senior RCD leaders decided on July 14 to designate new parliamentarians to replace Karaha's group, and will probably exclude them from the party. The RCD's collective leadership, the "College des Fondateurs," had previously decided that Karaha and the others were spending too much time in Goma rather than at work in Kinshasa, especially with important legislation on nationality and amnesty coming up. The RCD asked them to choose, sent an ultimatum demanding that they return to Kinshasa, but instead Karaha's group responded by communique. Karaha's group, Ilunga said, has long been trying to destabilize the Kivus and undermine RCD leaders in Kinshasa. "They never belonged to the process," he explained. When the RCD was based in Goma, Karaha and his entourage were powerful. They lost this preeminence with the advent of the transitional government, and no longer hold important positions. In short, they are "very frustrated" and did everything they could to make the process fail--including actively support the mutinous Gen. Laurent Nkunda.

COMMENT

15. (C) It is unclear whether or not Karaha will be able to recruit many others to his "cause." RCD leaders appear to think not, as their response to this political "mutiny" has been firm. It stands in marked contrast to their unwillingness to publicly condemn renegade military officers Gen. Laurent Nkunda and Col. Jules Mutebusi. END COMMENT.
SCOTT